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(74) Agent: HEISER, David, E.; E.I. DU PONT DE  
NEMOURS AND COMPANY, LEGAL PATENT  
RECORDS CENTER, 4417 Lancaster Pike, Wilmington,  
DE 19805 (US).

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(71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): E.I.  
DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY [US/US];  
1007 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19898 (US). NAPPA,  
Mario, J. [US/US]; 3 Oakridge Court, Newark, DE 19711  
(US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): RAO, Velliyur,  
Nott, Mallikarjuna [US/US]; 1 Georgetown Avenue,  
Wilmington, DE 19809 (US). ROSENFELD, H., David  
[US/US]; 1927 Susquehannock Drive, Drumore, PA 17518  
(US). SUBRAMONEY, Shekhar [IN/US]; 425 Stella  
Drive, Hockessin, DE 19707 (US). SUBRAMANIAN,  
Munirpallam, A. [US/US]; 20 Pratt Lane, Kennett Square,  
PA 19348 (US). SIEVERT, Allen, C. [US/US]; 215 Rhett  
Lane, Elkton, MD 21921 (US).

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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF 1,1,1,2,2-PENTAFLUOROETHANE

(57) Abstract: A process for the preparation of pentafluoroethane is disclosed which involves contacting a mixture comprising hydrogen fluoride and at least one one starting material selected from haloethanes of the formula CX<sub>3</sub>191CHX<sub>2</sub> and haloethenes of the formula CX<sub>2</sub>=CX<sub>2</sub>, where each X is independently selected from the group consisting of F and Cl (provided that no more than four of X are F), with a fluorination catalyst in a reaction zone to produce a product mixture comprising HF, HCl, pentafluoroethane, underfluorinated halogenated hydrocarbon intermediates and less than 0.2 mole percent chloropentafluoroethane based on the total moles of halogenated hydrocarbons in the product mixture. The process is characterized by the fluorination catalyst comprising (i) a crystalline cobalt-substituted alpha-chromium oxide where from about 0.05 atom % to about 6 atom % of the chromium atoms in the alpha-chromium oxide lattice are replaced by trivalent cobalt (Co<sup>+3</sup>) and/or (ii) a fluorinated crystalline oxide of (i).

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